



Memorandum

TO: HONORABLE MAYOR AND
CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Hans F. Larsen

**SUBJECT: STREET TREE INVENTORY
GRANT**

DATE: February 4, 2013

Approved

Date

2/14/13

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager or designee to:

- (1) Execute and submit a grant application to the State of California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) for an Urban Forestry Grant entitled "An Urban Forest for Every City," in the amount not to exceed \$150,000, with a local match not to exceed \$50,000 for the completion of an inventory of the City's street trees;
- (2) Certify that the City of San José has allocated sufficient funds to operate and maintain the inventory project, that such funds are available to begin the project, and that the City of San José will expend the grant funds prior to March 30, 2015; and other assurances and certifications required by CAL FIRE; and
- (3) Conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, and payment requests and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the grant project.

OUTCOME

The recommended actions will facilitate receiving State grant funds to be used towards conducting an inventory of the existing street trees and potential tree planting sites on the remaining approximately 40% of the City's streets that remain to be inventoried. If awarded, this grant will offset City funds previously programmed for the inventory over a two year period, scheduled to be completed in 2013-2014, as part of approval of the 2012-2013 Adopted Capital Budget and 2013-2017 Capital Improvement Program. Completion of a Citywide street tree inventory helps support the City's Green Vision goal to facilitate planting 100,000 trees.

BACKGROUND

The City of San José has long had a goal to have a complete inventory of the City's street trees and potential tree planting sites throughout the City. This inventory can be useful in a number of ways, such as gaining knowledge of the quantity, species, size, and condition of the street trees, the diversity of the street tree population and its propensity for disease and insect outbreaks, the location and size of potential street tree planting sites to see where additional plantings can likely be accommodated, and providing data for various scientific studies, such as the amount of carbon that is sequestered within the wood of the street trees that is a component in combating global climate change. The inventory is also used in the Department of Transportation's street tree permit database, allowing the tracking of additions or deletions to the street tree population through permit activity.

Since 2009 through various funding sources, including a previous grant from CAL FIRE and another from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the City has already conducted an inventory on approximately 60% of the City's streets. A variety of people have been involved in the various phases to date: AmeriCorps members and staff from Our City Forest, University interns, City employees, and outside urban forest contractors. An effort was recently completed to integrate all of the previous phases of the inventory into one database. An initial component of the inventory project which was conducted in 2009 using the iTree -Streets program, produced a statistically valid estimate that there are 242,650 street trees and 87,580 vacant street tree planting sites within San José. The complete inventory will confirm this estimate and provide more detailed information to be used in further studies.

ANALYSIS

The City of San José meets the eligibility requirement for the grant. This Urban Forestry grant from the State of California is only available to local governments to establish or add to an existing tree inventory. The City of San José already has a partially completed street tree inventory, to which the additional data funded by the grant will be added. Applicants must have an existing urban forest/street tree protection system. The City of San José is in compliance by having the Street Tree Ordinance, Section 13.28 of the San José Municipal Code. Applicants must have an existing urban forester, arborist, or other position responsible for urban forest resources. The City Arborist in the Department of Transportation meets this criterion and will oversee the implementation of the grant in San José.

Along with the completed application and submission of various environmental and compliance documents to CAL FIRE, it is required that the "governing body", in this case the City Council, adopts a resolution in the template required by CAL FIRE authorizing the City Manager or designee to execute and submit the grant application, administer the grant as required by CAL FIRE and expend the funds as needed. In addition, CAL FIRE requires the City Manager or designee to submit a signed Nondiscrimination Compliance Statement; a Drug-free Workplace

Certification, Certification of Party Responsible for Maintenance of Street Tree Inventory Database; Statement of Compliance with all Applicable Laws; and a Recycling Certification.

The City should be notified later this spring if the City is successful in being awarded the grant. If the City is successful, the City and CAL FIRE will enter into a grant agreement outlining the grant terms and conditions as explained in this memorandum. Additionally, the grant agreement will require the street tree inventory data must be collected in a manner acceptable to CAL FIRE. The required local matching funds, not to exceed \$50,000, for the project are included within the \$200,000 funding for the street tree inventory project in the 2012-2013 Approved Capital Budget. In the 2013-2017 Capital Improvement Program there is an additional \$200,000 allocated for continuation of the street tree inventory project. If the City is successful in being awarded the full CAL FIRE grant, it, along with existing City funds allocated, should provide the needed funding to complete the entire remaining 40% portion of the street tree inventory project. The portion of the inventory covered by the CAL FIRE grant must be completed by March 30, 2015.

EVALUATION AND FOLLOW-UP

Progress on completing the citywide tree inventory will be included in the annual City Council report on the Green Vision program.

PUBLIC OUTREACH/INTEREST

- ☐ **Criterion 1:** Requires Council action on the use of public funds equal to \$1 million or greater. **(Required: Website Posting)**
- ☐ **Criterion 2:** Adoption of a new or revised policy that may have implications for public health, safety, quality of life, or financial/economic vitality of the City. **(Required: E-mail and Website Posting)**
- ☐ **Criterion 3:** Consideration of proposed changes to service delivery, programs, staffing that may have impacts to community services and have been identified by staff, Council or a Community group that requires special outreach. **(Required: E-mail, Website Posting, Community Meetings, Notice in appropriate newspapers)**

While this item does not meet any of the criteria, this memorandum will be posted on the City's website for the City Council agenda.

COORDINATION

Preparation of this report was coordinated with the Budget Office and the City Attorney's Office.

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FISCAL/POLICY ALIGNMENT

The recommended action aligns with supporting Goal #9 of the Green Vision to plant a net 100,000 trees in San José by 2022.

COST SUMMARY/IMPLICATIONS

As part of the 2012-2013 Adopted Capital Budget and the 2013-2017 Capital Improvement Program, the Street Tree Inventory project is currently funded from the Construction Excise Fund, with \$200,000 appropriated in 2012-2013 and an additional \$200,000 programmed 2013-2014, with a total project cost of \$400,000. The grant funding of \$150,000 will offset the City's current allocation with the total project cost unchanged. Recognition of grant funds will be incorporated into the 2013-2014 Proposed Capital Budget process.

CEQA

Not a Project, File No. PP10-066, Feasibility and Planning Studies.

/s/

HANS F. LARSEN

Director of Transportation

For questions, please contact Ralph Mize, City Arborist, at (408) 794-1915.